

however, perhaps more than ever before, we understand what our nation's armed forces have given to preserve our freedom and security.

On October 8th, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower redesignated Armistice Day as "Veterans Day" for the millions of veterans who honorably served this nation. President Eisenhower also issued the first 'Veterans Day Proclamation' to "help preserve in the hearts and lives of all our citizens the spirit of patriotism, the love of country and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good symbolized by this very special day."

And so, in honor of those who served in the military and those who are now stationed around the world protecting our national interests, and promoting peace and security, it is my earnest hope, that all Americans, join hands to insure the proper and widespread observance of this day. While the effect our veterans have had on world history is great, they are not distant historical footnotes, but are as close as a father or mother, brother or sister, grandfather or grandmother, friend and neighbor, and co-workers. Let us, as a grateful nation, pay the appropriate homage to our veterans who have contributed so much to the preservation of this country.

While we all desire peace, when war could not be avoided, our veterans put their lives on the line, many paying the ultimate sacrifice. To all those who wore the uniform, or may have seen their comrades die around them, or possibly suffered injuries that continue to affect them today. We honor and thank you.

VETERANS DAY, THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this Veterans Day to pay tribute to our nation's heroes. The veterans of this country have given so much to protect and secure our way of life. Now more than ever, it is our duty to commemorate their actions, and to commend their commitment.

I rise to thank our veterans for having the courage and strength to fight for American values. Though we are saddened by recent events, we can look to the valiant history of our nation's bravest for comfort. We can rest assured that the dream of America is worth fighting, dying, and living for. We know because from every corner of the earth, the down trodden, the disenfranchised, and the oppressed come to seek out this dream. We know America is the beacon of hope and change, we can see it in the diversity of our citizenry.

On September 11, 2001, a generation blanketed by the quilt of peace and tranquility was awakened. This quilt of peace, stitched with the blood, sweat, and tears of brave American soldiers, was torn in a manner unimaginable only two months ago. Today, a generation comforted by a freedom so deep, so common, so prevalent, and so easily taken for granted, can more easily identify the price for which it was paid.

This generation is reminded that the sacrifice of Americans made our way of life possible. Young Americans with dreams in their eyes and hope in their hearts, bought our freedom. The tears of families who lost loved ones were exchanged for our security. The peace that we have come to know, was purchased by men and women that so loved our country that they risked and often gave their lives—ensuring that freedom is not only a concept that we dream about, but a reality that we live.

So it is with gratitude and the utmost respect that we remember those who fought, and those who were lost for the love of our nation. We move forward more vigilant, more aware, and more determined. As we pay tribute to our nation's freedom fighters, we stand with a new pride in America. Our hopes and prayers go out to those who are deployed, even now, to carry the torch in the fight for freedom. At the dawning of a new day of uncertainty, we can look to the American values of freedom, justice, and equality to lead us to peace. We thank the countless heroes, our veterans, for giving their freedom and their lives, so that we may live free.

HONORING THE MARIAN MEDICAL CENTER WEST

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the most recent addition of the Marian Medical Center, the Marian Medical Center West.

Since its inception on May 20, 1940, the Marian Medical establishment has found the perpetual need to keep expanding in order to better serve the growing community of Santa Maria, California. In 1940, eight Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity were assigned to Santa Maria to manage and staff a hospital for the growing community of approximately 8,000 people. The new facility was named Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital, by its first administrator, Sister Noella Dieringer.

Three years later, in 1943, the 1000th baby was born at the hospital, and it became apparent that the Santa Maria community was growing fast. Sister Marilyn Ingram worked hard to secure land in the Santa Maria area, and, through the generosity of Captain and Mrs. Allan Hancock, a new facility, Marian Hospital, was able to open its doors in 1967.

Today, the Marian Medical Center has expanded to include a 130 bed acute care hospital, a 95 bed extended care center, a dialysis unit, a home health agency, infusion services, a hospice program, and outpatient healthcare services. Yet as the Santa Maria community continues to grow, the medical center must expand as well. The addition of the Marian Medical Center West will help alleviate overcrowding in the hospital's main facility by providing 36 inpatient beds and expanded outpatient facilities.

The Marian Medical Center has provided services to thousands of Santa Maria residents over the last 60 years and with the addi-

tion of the new center thousands of more citizens can be served in the future. I am honored to have the opportunity of recognizing the Marian Medical Center West on its grand opening, and it pleases me that this facility continues to prosper.

HONORING JAMES KRAMER AND BRIAN COTTER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, all Americans have been going through very trying times since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Despite our struggle, we have pulled together and become a stronger nation due to the resolve of our citizens. Today, I would like to recognize two patriots from Pueblo, Colorado who have made significant contributions to our nation's recovery efforts.

Pueblo County Coroner James Kramer, and Brian Cotter, a mortician, were members of the Disaster Mortuary Response Team that went to New York City to aid in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center disaster site. They were at ground zero with other forensic pathologists helping to recover and identify the individuals who we lost in the disaster.

Mr. Speaker, James Kramer and Brian Cotter committed their expertise to our country during an overwhelming time of need. Just as we have seen with the rest of the country, both James and Brian provided some stability to our nation at a time of crisis. I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize these understanding individuals for their significant contributions to the recovery and relief effort in New York City following the World Trade Center disaster. James Kramer and Brian Cotter deserve our recognition and praise.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN TAYLORVILLE, IL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of North Elementary School in Taylorville, Illinois, and their important and heartwarming efforts to help those affected by terrorism.

On October 11th, 2001, President Bush made a request of the children of America. He challenged each of them to earn and send in one dollar. This money, sent by the kindness of the children of the United States, will be used to reach out to the unfortunate children in far off Afghanistan.

The students of North Elementary School heard and met that challenge. I recently received a check for \$348.00, made out to America's Fund for Afghan Children—that's one dollar for each student in North Elementary. But this was only a part of the total money the students raised. In fact, through a